

remain committed to the live chatfest. The network had given *Fox After Breakfast* a year—and launched a number of on-air and behind-the-scenes changes—before yanking it in favor of *Lawrence*,

which began airing Aug. 19. Lawrence hosted her own syndicated show in 1992-94.

“Given early-season results, Fox stands poised to make significant break-

throughs throughout its prime time lineup, and so it is most appropriate that we focus our entire efforts in maximizing those gains,” according to the Fox statement. ■

‘Wild Minutes’: Keeping an eye on the environment

By Sara Brown

Give Image Television and The Nature Conservancy two minutes and they’ll give you the environmental world.

The companies have teamed to provide weekly two-minute environmental news packages free to local TV stations.

The concept was developed in response to polls taken by the Radio & Television News Directors Foundation and others that suggest that although most Americans rely on television as their primary news source, few are satisfied with its environmental coverage. Image Television Executive Director Dennis Trouté says “environmental

reporting is dropping precipitously,” creating a need for this type of information.

The programming, called *Wild Minutes*, is being provided to affiliates of ABC, CBS, CNN, Conus and Fox, according to Trouté. NBC also took the programming at first, thinking it could use it as raw footage, says NBC NewsChannel producer Sheila Conlin, but found it too exotic for that purpose.

Ally Webb, director of communications at The Nature Conservancy, hopes



the coverage will foster environmental awareness among viewers. Webb is pleased with the response, saying “a whole lot of people [are] listening in to a whole lot of information about the natural world.”

In the future, Trouté hopes to be able to offer “more direct news reporting as well as features.”

The Nature Conservancy has invested some \$120,000 in field production for the feature stories, Webb says, but post-production costs are covered by Image Television. ■



‘Sparks’ for Saban

Fox Kids Worldwide Chairman Haim Saban will soon have a vested interest in how UPN fares this season with its urban programming. As part of the News Corp. purchase of Family Channel through FKW, Saban

is expected to inherit the sitcoms *Sparks* and *Good News*—two shows from MTM Enterprises, a subsidiary of International Family Entertainment, a source says. Apparently, 20th Century Fox Television didn’t put up a fight for the sitcoms; there’s no love lost between studio executives and the shows, which average a 4 or 5 share on the emerging network.

New producers for ‘Bridges’

Robert Papazian and James Hirsch have signed a major TV development and production agreement with Rysher Entertainment to create, develop and produce a full range of TV products. As a part of the agreement, the duo has agreed to co-executive-produce *Nash Bridges*, the CBS drama starring Don Johnson.

Song of the ‘City’

The latest spin from ABC’s *Spin City* involves a new theme song from Spin Doctors and a guest spot for the star’s wife. The song “If Wishes Were Horses” from the Spin Doctor’s album “You’ve Got to Believe in Something” will fill the title sequence, which features the cast

members juxtaposed with abstract views of New York City. As for Tracy Pollan—wife of Michael J. Fox, who last appeared in a prime time sitcom with her husband in *Family Ties*—she’ll play a high school sweetheart of Fox’s character in an episode to air later this fall. *Spin City* is executive-produced by Gary David Goldberg, who also produced *Family Ties*.

Never can say good-bye

While CBS affiliates continue to grouse over what went wrong on that fateful night in Paris last month, ABC News is already pushing their Princess Diana tales in video stores. Produced for Disney-owned Lifetime Television and MPI Home Video, *Diana: Legacy of a Princess* will open with the Aug. 30 accident before focusing on the princess, her lover, Dodi al Fayed, and the driver. Sam Citro, the executive vice president of MPI Home Video, says the biography was “endorsed by no one in the British monarchy,” but insists no apology was needed “for the honesty of the program’s contents.”

Gone, but not forgotten

Adam Goldberg, who played Doug Kroll in last year’s critically acclaimed but ultimately canned *Relativity*, has signed an exclusive series development deal with ABC. Goldberg also recently co-starred as Chandler’s roommate Eddie on NBC’s *Friends*. “We aggressively pursue talent deals as part of our competitive strategy, wherever and whenever they make sense,” says Jamie Tarses, ABC entertainment president. “Adam is a very talented actor with breakout potential who we feel to be a tremendous asset, and we’re thrilled to be working with him again.”

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